

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Fairfax County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

July 24, 2007 to August 24, 2007

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a federally funded activity to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

Virginia Department of Transportation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) proposes to construct four high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes and related infrastructure on the I-495 Capital Beltway in Fairfax County. The proposed action is a result of a combined 2002 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) plan and a 2005 HOT proposal submitted under Virginia's Public-Private Transportation Act. The HOV-HOT alternative was selected as the preferred alternative in 2005 by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Construction for the HOT Lanes would occur along an eleven mile stretch of the Beltway from the Washington-Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) interchange (Exit 45) on the north, to just south of the Braddock Road (Route 620) interchange (Exit 54) at the Heming Avenue overpass to the south. The proposed action would result in a main line with four general-purpose lanes and two HOV-HOT lanes in each direction. Improvements are identified to approximately ten existing interchanges. The majority of improvements proposed would be accomplished within the existing VDOT right-of-way with less than 10 acres of new right-of-way anticipated. Funding for the proposed action would come from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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